

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/747,687	SAKAI, YOSHIRO
	Examiner	Art Unit

Ghassem Alie

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the filing date of the application.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 30 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/30/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are allowable because prior art fails to teach that the guiding member is fixed to the handle in a notch on an upper edge of the handle and positioned in a longitudinal direction of the handle and a tubular lock member supported on the guide member and being movable with respect to the guide member between a locking position and a open position along a guiding axis of the guiding member as set forth in claims 1 and 12.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Rogers (5,325,588) and Glessner (6,751,868) teach a folding knife including a handle and a blade attached to the handle and being pivotally movable about a pivot axis provided in the handle. Rogers and Glessner also teach that the blade being movable between a fold position and an open position and the blade includes a tang positioned in the handle when the blade is in the open position. Rogers and Glessner also teach a cam surface provided on a peripheral edge of the tang and the cam surface includes a substantially arcuate guiding portion extending about the pivot axis and an engaging portion. Rogers and Glessner also teach a locking mechanism including a guiding member and a biasing member. However, Rogers and Glessner do not teach that the guiding member fixed to the handle in a notch on an upper edge of the handle and positioned in a longitudinal direction of the handle and a tubular lock member supported on the guide member and being movable with respect to the guiding member between a locking position and a open position along a guiding axis of the guiding member as set forth in claims 1 and 12.

None of these references by themselves or in combination with the other prior art cited teach the claimed invention set forth in claims 1 and 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Montague et al. (6,305,041), Collins (5,111,581, 6,684,510, and 6,397,477), Conable (6,370,778), Onion (6,338,431), Vallontton (2004/0020058), Ralph (6,427,335), teach a folding knife having a locking mechanism.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ghassem Alie whose telephone number is (703) 305-4981. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on (703) 305-1082. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9302 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

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